

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented) A material to be molded comprising a porous material in which a phenolic resin which is a condensating polymer of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor is impregnated, wherein said phenolic resin is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated at a time when said phenolic resin is at B-stage to enhance moldability, storage life, and heat resistance.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A material to be molded in accordance with claim 1, wherein said phenolic resin comprises a condensation of phenolic compound and aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor produced using ammonia and/or amine.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A material to be molded in accordance with claim 1 shaped as a sheet.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A molded material comprising a base sheet and a cured material in accordance with claim 5 laminated on said base sheet as a surface layer wherein phenolic resin impregnated in said material is cured.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An interior material comprising a base formed of a material in accordance with claim 1 wherein phenolic resin impregnating said material is cured, and a surface layer laminated on said base.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An interior material in accordance with claim 7, wherein said base sheet and said surface layer are bonded together by an adhesive.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a material to be molded comprising the steps of

preparing a precondensation polymer of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor which is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated by adding a sulfomethylation reagent and/or a sulfimethylation reagent at any stage,

impregnating said precondensation polymer solution into a porous material, and
curing and drying said porous material to condense slightly said precondensation polymer to make it at B-stage.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising the steps of
chemically and/or mechanically foaming said precondensation polymer solution,
contacting said porous material with said foamed precondensation polymer solution,
and then

pressing said porous material to impregnate said foamed precondensation polymer solution into said porous material.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising the steps of
producing said precondensation polymer of said thermosetting resin by condensing a phenolic compound and aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor using ammonia and/or amine.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A material to be molded shaped as a base sheet, an adhesive, and a cured material laminated on said base sheet as a surface layer by means including said adhesive and comprising a porous material in which a phenolic resin is

impregnated, said phenolic resin comprising a condensating polymer of a phenolic compound and an aldehyde and/or aldehyde donor produced using ammonia and/or amine, wherein said phenolic resin is at least partially sulfomethylated and/or sulfimethylated at a time when said phenolic resin is at B-stage to enhance moldability, storage life, and heat resistance.